

# Ex-Headmistress Convicted in Murder of Diet Physician

*From Times Wire Services*

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.—Jean Harris was convicted Tuesday of second-degree murder in the fatal shooting of Scarsdale Diet author Herman Tarnower, her lover of 14 years who had jilted her for a younger woman.

Murder in the second degree carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years to life in prison and a maximum of 25 years to life.

The jury of eight women and four men, which deliberated eight days, also convicted the former headmistress of criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree.

The ashen-faced 57-year-old defendant sat motionless as jury foreman Russell von Glahn announced the verdicts in a soft voice. But two defense lawyers burst into tears at the table, and Harris turned to one of them, Bonnie Steingart, and patted her knee consolingly.

Judge Russell R. Leggett ordered

Harris remanded to the Westchester County Jail to await sentencing on March 20. "I can't sit in jail," Harris said softly to her attorney. But she did not resist and was led away by two sheriff's deputies.

Through five weeks of pretrial hearings and three months of testimony by more than 90 witnesses, including Harris, the key issues were:

—What was really on the headmistress' mind—murder or suicide—when she drove north from the Madeira School for girls in McLean, Va., with a loaded .32-caliber revolver last March 10?

—When she confronted the 69-year-old Dr. Tarnower that night in the bedroom of his lavish estate in suburban Purchase north of New York City, who really caused the gun to go off five times?

Defense attorney Joel Aurnou

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